



Staff Report

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON THE ROADWAY GEOMETRICS ON ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS, SOUTH OF RALSTON AVENUE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

City Council requested staff to investigate the feasibility of adding additional diagonal parking and bike lanes along Alameda de las Pulgas south of Ralston Avenue.

Background

City Council approved the installation of diagonal parking along Alameda de las Pulgas adjacent to Carlmont High School to reduce the number of students who were parking in the adjacent residential neighborhoods. The plans that were approved by Council included converting the existing roadway configuration from two northbound lanes and one southbound lane to a configuration with one lane in each direction with bike lanes.

It was decided not to convert to the new configuration with one lane in each direction with bike lanes mid-way through the actual installation of the new pavement markings. The new configuration was creating a significant backup of traffic traveling in the northbound direction from San Carlos into Belmont.

City Council has received requests to increase parking in the area of the library. It was suggested the City consider installing diagonal parking in the area of the library. In addition, City Council received a concern regarding the safety of bicyclists riding along Alameda de las Pulgas in the area of Carlmont High School. The current configuration with two northbound lanes and one southbound lane requires a bicyclist to ride in the southbound travel lane to provide adequate clearance between the bicyclist and the diagonally parked vehicles.

City Council requested staff to investigate the feasibility of adding diagonal parking adjacent to the library and installing bike lanes south of Ralston Avenue to the San Carlos city limits.

Discussion

City staff has provided proposed roadway geometrics that will provide for 30 diagonal parking spaces in the area near the library and bike lanes in both the southbound and northbound directions. There are approximately 21 existing parallel parking spaces in the area of the new

diagonal parking. The diagonal parking will net an additional 9 parking spaces over the existing parking.

The new roadway geometrics will eliminate one of the two northbound traffic lanes to facilitate the bike lanes in both directions between Carlmont Drive and the south city limits. It should be noted that there is only one northbound traffic lane from San Carlos entering into the City of Belmont. North of Ralston Avenue, there is also only one northbound traffic lane. The roadway geometrics north of Carlmont Drive will remain the same.

The change in roadway geometrics may significantly increase delays to northbound traffic coming out of San Carlos. It should be noted approximately 4 percent of the traffic traveling on Ralston Avenue east of Alameda de las Pulgas is traffic coming north out of San Carlos. This percentage of traffic is almost the same percentage of traffic that travels on Ralston Avenue from the west city limits to US 101 (4.9%). Between 8 and 10 percent of the traffic traveling west on Ralston Avenue originates from San Carlos.

The increase in delays associated with the revised roadway geometrics may actually discourage San Carlos residents from traveling through Belmont to access both State Route 92 on the west and US 101 on the east.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated cost to restripe Alameda to provide for one lane in each direction, bike lanes and diagonal parking in the area of the library is \$30,000.

Public Contact

The Bicycle Committee reviewed and approved the project on December 11, 2007. Additional public contact was provided through the posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Council discuss and provide direction as to whether or not the roadway geometrics should be modified to provide for additional diagonal parking in the area of the library and bike lanes on Alameda de las Pulgas south of Carlmont Drive and north of the Valerga Drive.

Alternatives

1. Refer back to staff for further information or other options.
2. Deny the request.

Attachments

A. Proposed Striping Plans

Respectfully submitted,

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